

Chips

and

Sawdust

**A Newsletter
From**

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
403 McIndoe Street
Wausau, WI 54401**

August, 1993

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 1992-93

Thomas R. Albrecht
304 W. Richmond Street
Shawano, WI 54155

Karl Baumann
1119 Florence Street
Marinette, WI 54143

Frank N. Fixmer Secretary-Treasurer
604 9th Street
Mosinee, WI 54455

Eugene Harm Vice-President
Route 2, Box 468
Cadott, WI 54727

Don Lambrecht
1665 Patten Street
Green Bay, WI 54301

Randall Rohe
UWW 1500 University Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188

Michael Sohasky President
1435 Neva Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Forest Stearns
3040 Sorensen Road
Rhineland, WI 54501

Jacque D. Vallier
10243 N. Westport Circle
Mequon, WI 53092

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My two-year tenure as president of the Forest History Association is about to come to an end. I have truly enjoyed working for your association to help promote and preserve forest history for future generations. The board of directors, officers, publicity chairman - Joyce Bant, and especially our secretary-treasurer - Frank Fixmer, have worked diligently to keep the association active.

The FHAW is entering a critical period in our own "history" as we complete two decades of work. One of our most pressing needs is in the area of publications. Fortunately Mr. Ray Clark, a member from De Pere, has agreed to be the new **Chips and Sawdust** editor. For that I am extremely grateful. This is an important job and the newsletter is the only line of communication with our members who are scattered across this state and the nation.

Dr. Randall Rohe, who had served as editor of **Chips and Sawdust** for many years, will continue to be editor of the **Annual Meeting Proceedings** until Spring of 1994. Therefore,

we must find a replacement for this critical job. The **Proceedings** is a means of publishing papers presented by speakers on various aspects of Wisconsin's forest history.

Over the past two years that I have served the association as president, we have had our share of change. Due to the work of Joyce Bant, publicity has been enhanced. John Saeman has overseen a resurgence in the student scholarship award program. Under the educational eye of Frank Fixmer, the travelling exhibit has been displayed at various meetings and conferences to promote the association and educate the citizenry about forest history,

Financially, the association is in good shape. Due to low interest rates, the board was forced to look at other investment opportunities to raise operating revenues. Investment income is a major component of our operating statement. To date, the financial moves have been successful. The auction at the annual meeting has also been successful. This is due to the generosity of our members who donate auction items and those who bid. Last year's auction netted \$992.00. Let's look in the garage, basement, back shelf or wherever for items for this Fall's annual auction in Antigo.

One final thought is membership. Like all organizations, membership is critical to our survival. Not only do we need members for dues, but we also need members to "work" for the organization. As our members continue to age, we need to continue our efforts to recruit new members, especially younger people. I am 41 years old and probably one of the "younger" members! Let's all take it upon ourselves this year to ask someone, anyone, to join.

I would be remiss if I didn't publicly thank the "Sentinel Pine" of our organization, Frank Fixmer. Frank not only was a co-founder of the association, he has served as treasurer for 17 years and secretary-treasurer for 15 years. These two jobs are critical to the association and Frank has done them remarkably well. Frank has advised the board of his desire to step down as treasurer due to the workload of the combined jobs, and his wish to "retire". If anyone is interested in being treasurer in 1994, please let me know.

Remember, the annual meeting will be on September 25 and 26, 1993, in Antigo, at the Cutlass Motor Lodge. The theme will be "Forest History Revelations Through Archaeology". See you in Antigo!

Michael Sohasky, President

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION SECRETARY-TREASURER

Have you renewed your membership for 1993-94? Membership renewal cards were sent out on July 1st. Most members have since responded, but there are still many that may have misplaced those notices and need to be reminded. It will save the Association quite a few dollars in first class postage costs if those members will now respond. Dues need to be paid no later than October 1st for a member to remain in good standing. Don't be one who will miss receiving **Chips and Sawdust** and the **1993 Proceedings** during the balance of this fiscal year! Incidentally, one of our pre-addressed return envelopes was received with nothing on it. It was postmarked at Rhinelander, WI, in early July. The sender apparently forgot to enclose his check. Was it YOU?

NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Mr. Sohasky, don't thank me yet. If I get my first newsletter out not too late, I will consider it a success. I have spent only a few hours typing the articles into the computer, but have spent ten times as long trying to get it out in the correct format. I am not a computer whiz to begin with, and trying to learn a new computer program is giving me fits. Once I get it figured out, the next newsletters shouldn't give me so much trouble and I can get them out on time. My apologies on the lateness and also on the appearance of this first one.

I have a fairly large collection of books and other printed matter covering Wisconsin forest history. Down the road I will try to do some writing and more searching for interesting items for the newsletters. However, I encourage all Association members to submit articles. Your submissions don't have to be fancy, whether they be researched topics, newspaper clippings, or simply memories jotted down by hand. We want to hear from you!

Finally, I want to thank the past **Chips and Sawdust** editors and other Association members who have worked to keep the organization going. They have done a superb job and I hope I can carry on the tradition.

Ray Clark

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL AUCTION

Chairman of the auction Committee, Mike Weckworth of Merrill, has sent letters to a limited number of Association members soliciting donations of articles to be auctioned at the annual meeting September 25th. However, to assure that this year's event will be the most successful ever, more items are needed to supplement those already received.

Do you have any artifacts or other memorabilia that you can part with to the benefit of the Association's financial needs? If so, then send a note to Mike, telling him what you have to offer. Address him at: 110 S. Prospect St., Merrill, WI 54452. He will then let you know how to get those items to him, if you are unable to deliver them in person. Preferably, that would be to arrange to have a member of the board of directors closest to you pick them up. Now is your chance to clean out that garage, basement or attic of yesteryear's "trash" that might be today's treasure for some lucky collector!

COMMUNICATION IMPORTANT TO HOSPITALIZED MEMBER OF FRAW

The following letter (in part) was received last month from the daughter of WALLY YOUNGQUIST, informing us about his hospitalization. Association members who know Wally, as well as others concerned about him, may wish to communicate with him and wish him a speedy recovery.

"My dad, Wally Youngquist, has been very ill this spring with a bad, painful case of the shingles. In April he also had congestive heart failure. His shingles are on the mend and his heart has stabilized, but he has been considerably weakened. Consequently, he has been moved to a nursing home. His mind is good and I encouraged his efforts to complete the enclosed lumberjack story and send it to you. Staying in communication is so important to him...getting this article to you was something he really wanted to accomplish. Wally still uses his old address: 201 Kensington Drive, Madison, WI 53704."

Sincerely,
Louise Youngquist
Ithaca, NY

THE LUMBERJACKS DEER HUNTING VACATION

For a number of years following the end of World War One, the Westboro Lumber Company in Taylor County, Wisconsin, closed down all woods operations during the Fall deer hunting season. It was a safety measure to protect the workers.

Some of the lumberjacks went home to the small farms they had established in the area. Some made their headquarters in the Westboro saloons. Some would have been safer in the woods.

The lumber camps were turned over to deer hunters . For a fixed fee, the hunters were provided with food, lodging, and transportation to and from Westboro on the logging railroad cars. The hunters came to Westboro from the cities to the south via the Soo Line Railroad. All hunters were required to stay for the full length of the ten day season.

On the day after the season closed, the hunters came back to town. It was always bitter cold and the deer carcasses were frozen stiff. They loaded on a flat car like cordwood for the ride to town. Some of the hunters brought small Christmas trees and put them on the car. These trees probably served as peace offerings when they got home.

In town all of the deer were hung for display

from ropes attached to a cross beam between two poles in front of Lundeen's saloon near the center of town. Nearly everyone in town including women and children came to see the display.

One year a lucky hunter bagged a large black bear. The bear was hung at the center of the display. This was a challenge. A lumberjack came out of the saloon and boxed the swinging, frozen carcass with his bare fists. The bear got its revenge. The man's fists and face were soon bloody and his jacket was torn. Willing hands swung at the bear harder and harder. As soon as the jack was knocked off of his feet, another jack took his place. The loser was dragged back into the saloon to sober up, and then another jack came with the same result. It was strictly no contest. The bear won every round, or rather every swing.

The hunters left on the first available passenger train to the South. The deer and Christmas trees were carried in the baggage car. The train left with a loud blast of the whistle, which signalled the end of the vacation. The lumber company rounded up the lumberjacks and took them out to the camps. Westboro returned to normal.

W. G. Youngquist
July 16, 1993

OREGONIAN MEMBER SEEKS INFORMATION ON FAMILY SAWMILL BUILDERS

A letter from Association member Winifred Smith of Hillsboro, Oregon, provides some interesting highlights concerning the activities of her father and grandfather during the early twentieth century. She would like very much to hear from anyone who can give her more details about those days and the sawmills that they built in so many different places. Part of her letter reads:

"Grandpa John Edward Johnson and his two brothers had a blacksmith and wagon shop in Washburn, WI about 1895. When it was destroyed by fire, they went to work in the woods or sawmill. About 1902-03, John moved his family to Odanah on the Indian reservation and he worked in a sawmill as a millwright.

About 1905 John got his first job at building a sawmill at Rhinelander for the Brown Lumber Company - this took about 1 1/2 years. From there he went to Warren, Arkansas to build a sawmill. He took along his 15 year old son, Ben, who was later to become my dad. Some time later he got a job building another sawmill at

Stearns, Kentucky. Before the end of 1909, John got a job at Gibbs, Idaho, building a tie mill. He also built a shingle mill in Spokane for a Mr. Hedland. During the 1920's he built a big dry shed for Scott & Howe Lumber Co. While working on it, my dad asked the boss if he could build the big doors for the building. As was the current custom, the doors opened out and the winter snows made a constant job of shovelling to get them open. The boss gave my dad permission to try his idea after seeing his drawings. It was to be an overhead door. It was a success, and my dad was told to go ahead and build them all like that. My dad learned from my grandpa and worked in the lumber business all his life."

Readers of the foregoing odyssey who may have some knowledge of the Johnson's accomplishments are urged to communicate with Ms. Winifred Smith at 11970 SW Clark Hill Road, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

Dr. J. W. Pinch,

Physician and Surgeon,

Sillett, Wisconsin.

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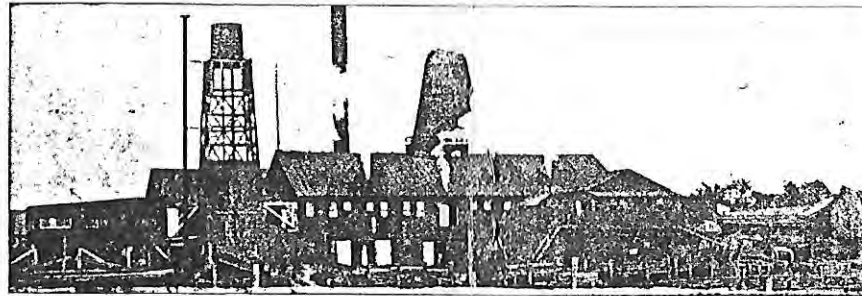
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ARCHIVES AND REFERENCE LIBRARY

Many Association members that FAW entered into an agreement in 1983 with the Area Research Center at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. That agreement provided for space to house the Association's permanent record of activities, memberships, and financial reports. Additionally, as published works are acquired on the many aspects of forest history, both historical and contemporary, they are added to the reference library of the collection. Such acquisitions, primarily from donations of members, now exceed 150 volumes. The entire collection is accessible to students and researchers with a special interest in the state's forest heritage. However, the collection is badly in need of cataloguing for more ready reference to particular subjects of inquiry. If any Association member has a special aptitude for such an endeavor, please make known your interest to any one of the board of directors.

NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITION

The most recent addition to the Association's reference library has been the 160-page,

hard-cover book **Rooted in Resources**, which, to quote its publishers, "celebrates Iron County's proud past and promising future."

This handsome and profusely illustrated work commemorates Iron County's centennial, although a number of its communities had their beginnings before 1893. Predictably, this history begins with the logging and lumbering industries, moves through the period of exploitation of the area's iron ore deposits, and then chronicles the development of the business, government and social facets of the numerous communities that had their roots in those enterprises.

Of some interest to Association members is the fact that this highly professional work was largely written, edited and designed by Michael Goc, of Friendship, WI, also a member of FHAW. Goc is the researcher and author, as well as editor, of nineteen books, including the histories of a number of Wisconsin towns and counties other than Iron County. His books have been cited for excellence by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and received that Society's Award of Merit in 1988, 89 and 90. It will not be surprising if he does repeat that achievement with **Rooted in Resources**.

LOST OXEN!

*The following story is taken from **The Life of a Lumberman**, 1929, by John Emmett Nelligan.)*

In writing of oxen, I am reminded of an incident of which I have been told, which occurred back in the sixties, which Delos Washburn, a log jobber from Oconto, was lumbering along the north branch of the Oconto River and, like most loggers of the time, was using oxen in his operations. At the end of each season he would fasten a bell to one of the oxen, so they could be found easily when wanted, and leave them in the woods to take care of themselves for the summer, making a trip to the vicinity about once a month to see that they were all right. One year in the month of June he drove to his camps with a horse team and started rounding up his oxen. He experienced unusual difficulty in locating some of them and, feeling sure that there was no one within miles, he released his pent-up feelings in a lengthy string of choice cuss words. Suddenly a woman's voice rang out from some point across the river, butting in on his profane soliloquy.

"Quit your swearing! Some of the oxen are over here!"

This was deep in the wilderness, about sixty miles from Oconto, where no one, least of all a woman, could be expected to be, and Washburn was a bit in doubt whether the voice came from Heaven or Oshkosh. When he recovered from his surprise and regained his breath, he called back and soon found out that, figuratively speaking, the voice was from Oshkosh. Its possessor was an insane woman. Washburn managed to get her back to Oconto and the papers published articles about her discovery. Her relatives came and claimed her. She had been lost about a month before in the neighborhood of Shawano and had been in the wilderness that entire time subsisting on wild berries.

LUMBERJACK'S CURE

The following cure is known to work for most ailments contracted while working in the woods. It is also a sure-fire cure for rheumatism. "Take a little mosquito milk, pour it in a cat's horn, stir it with the crotch of a goose, and apply liberally to the area that afflicts you. (Do not ingest)"

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

DICK BIERLICH of Tomahawk, WI was a member of a state delegation that visited the state of Buryat in Siberia last June at the request of that Russian province's committee on ecological and natural resources. Problems that the Wisconsinites were asked to help find solutions for included poor forest fire management practices, inadequate logging road construction, and outdated and inefficient power saws. Bierlich is a 35-year veteran of the paper mill at Tomahawk, currently being operated by Packaging Corporation of America, and is mayor of the city. Also accompanying him on the Siberian tour was **WILLIAM "BUTCH" JOHNSON**, president of the Johnson Timber Company at Hayward, WI, and chairman of the Governor's Forestry Council. Both Bierlich and Johnson are longtime members of FHAW.

RUSS ROBERTS, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, tree farm forester for Georgia-Pacific Corporation at Port Edwards, participated in a statewide naturalist training program that centered around the theme of "Our Forest Heritage". His paper on the "History of Logging and Forestry in Wisconsin" explored the colorful past and folklore of the timber industry and the progress of professional forest management.

DAVID LANE, curator of the Crivitz Area Museum, was named Citizen-of-the-Year by the Crivitz Business Association for his exceptionally active role in making the area a better place in which to live. Lane has been particularly active in numerous organizations that boost tourism, but also finds time to help with the programs of several historical societies of which he is a member.

ASSOCIATION MEMBER NAMED NATIONAL OUTSTANDING LOGGER

TERRY PETERS of Mellen, WI, was named National Outstanding Logger for 1993 by the American Pulpwood Association at its annual meeting last spring. The award recognizes exceptional performance by an independent logging contractor and promotes improved forester-logger relations as an essential element in planned timber harvests. Peters represents the fourth generation of a Lake States logger family. He is an active director of the Timber Producers Association of Wisconsin and Michigan and chairman of its Forest Service Committee. He is also a charter member of the Lake States Resource Alliance, which promotes the continued multiple use of public forest lands in the Lake States.

ASSOCIATION'S EXHIBIT VIEWED BY THOUSANDS

For the sixth consecutive year, Wausau's "Great Wisconsin River Log Jam" festival proved to be an outstanding attraction for over 25,000 visitors last July. FHAW's exhibit again was on display at that event and competed for the attention of the crowds in an area occupied by a broad-axe wielder hewing railroad ties as in pioneer days.

The theme of the Association's exhibit was very much in keeping with the event: photos of early-day river log drives, rafting of lumber, steam hauler transportation, and typical logging camp scenes. Embellishing the display were such articles from that era as a canthook, peavy, caulked boots, log stamping hammers, and log ends stamped with the brands of long-gone lumber companies.

OBITUARIES

HARRY E. PATTERSON, Phelps, WI, died at age 89, on June 14, 1993. For 31 years Patterson was a safety director at the Conwed Corporation (formerly Wood Conversion Company) at Cloquet, MN, before retiring in 1968. Patterson had a deep interest in the history of the property on the south shore of Lac Vieux Desert, the source of the Wisconsin River, on which he spent his summers in retirement. That property had been purchased by his father in 1896 from the owner, who had operated a fur trading post there. Patterson was a ten-year member of FHAW.

CARL RHODY, Rib Lake, WI, and formerly of the town of Spirit, died at age 81 on March 23, 1993. Rhody was a well known historian and author, having written and self-published six books about the Spirit area. His last work, the 234-page "Spirit Falls- Logging Boom Town", is historical fiction that tells a vivid story of the logging era at the turn of the century in an area encompassing parts of Price, Taylor and Lincoln counties. Rhody often lectured at local schools and historical societies and wrote the commemorative centennial book for the Spirit Lake area. He was a 15-year member of FHAW and had donated several of his books to the Association's reference library.

THE STANDARD BOOK.

SCRIBNER'S

LUMBER & LOG

BOOK



Over a Million Copies have been Sold.

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GEO. W. FISHER,
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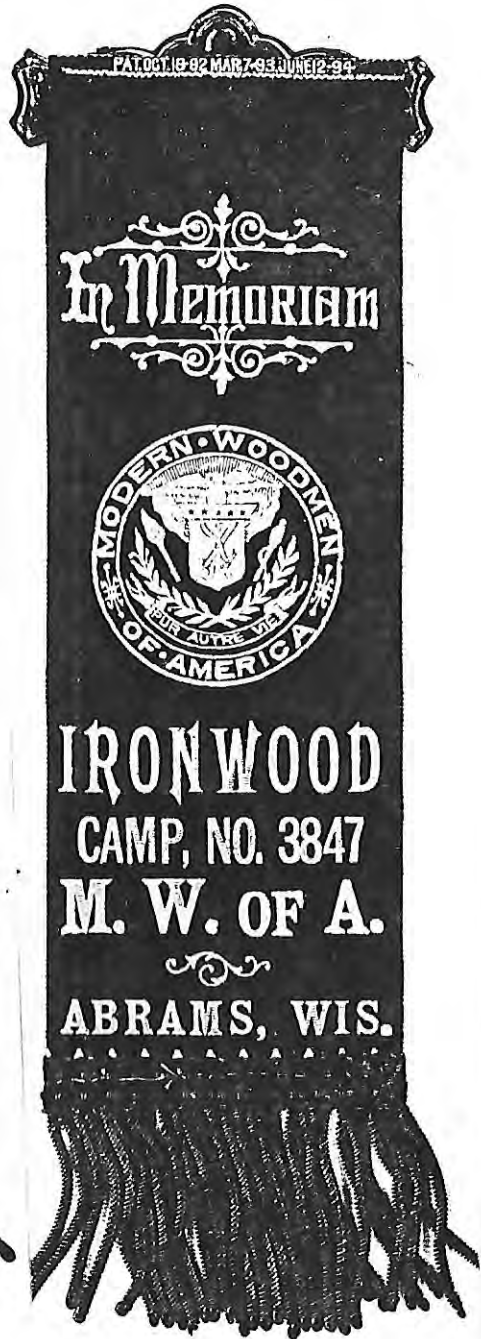
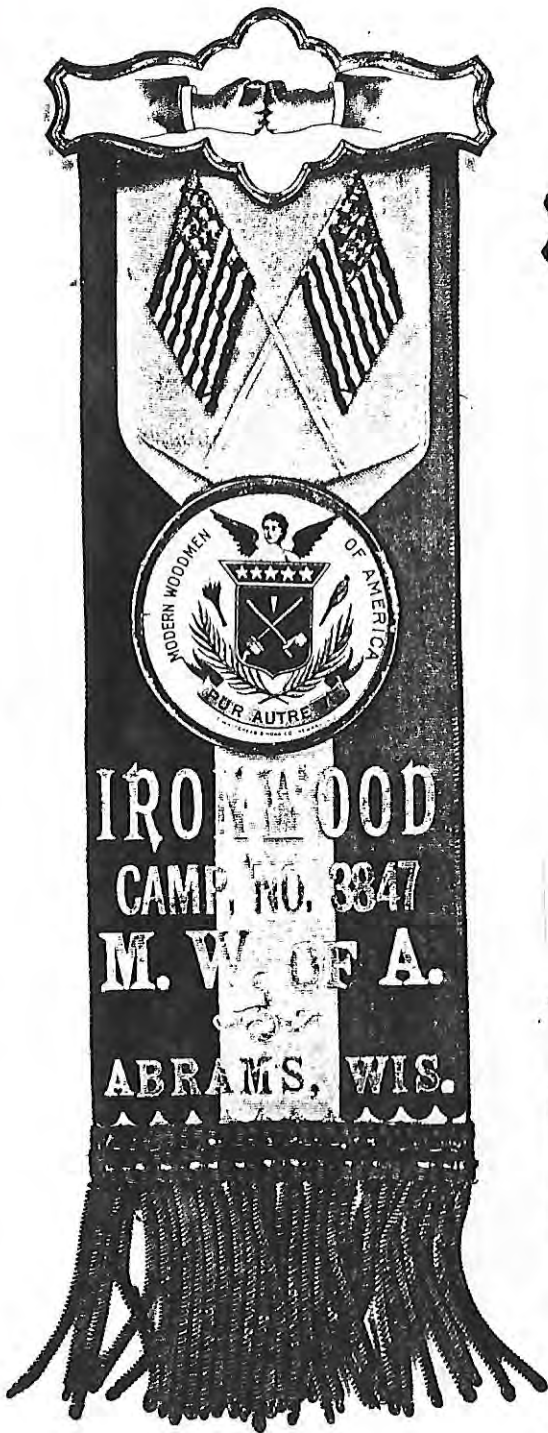


Loading Logs on a Wagon—The Cut Explains Itself.



Lumberman's Shanty.

MANY a backwoodsman will recognize this picture of a lumberman's camp in the wilderness. No matter how poor the lumberman may be, and whatever his trials, and they are many,—whether he is known or unknown, rich or poor, in the lumber camp a stranger is made to feel at home, if worthy; if not, woe betide the wary traveller or wild woods tramp who seeks shelter beneath the hospital roof of a chopper's dwelling.



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Distinguished Service Awards

Frank N. Fixmer

Publicity

Joyce Bant

Student Awards

John Saemann

Mike Sohasky

Annual Proceedings

Randall Rohe

Newsletter

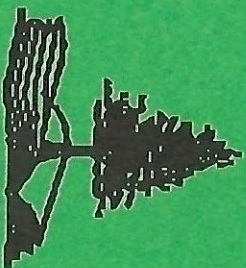
Ray Clark

Traveling Exhibit

Alvin Barden

The Post Office will not forward bulk 3rd class mail. Please inform the secretary-treasurer of any change in address.

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